

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Department of Emergency Services



PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 9, 2013

Media Contact: Robert B. Thomas, Jr. at 410-638-3408 or 443-617-1954

Sunday is "811 Day"

National "Call Before You Dig" campaign highlighted

(Forest Hill, MD) - - The Harford County Department of Emergency Services is joining the national *"Call Before You Dig"* campaign to help increase public awareness regarding the importance of calling **8 1 1** to have underground lines marked prior to digging. Underground utility companies launched this nationwide campaign in May 2007.

Sunday, August 11, 2013 is **"8 1 1 Day"**. The underground utility operators use the calendar date of 8/11 to remind people across the country to "call before you dig".

Each year more than 200,000 unintentional line "hits" occur as the result of individuals who do not call **8 1 1** before digging. Subsequently many of these incidents result in calls to 9 1 1 centers throughout the country for fire and rescue assistance due to fires, explosions, spills, injuries or even fatalities. A call to **8 1 1** anywhere in the United States results in the free marking of underground lines.

"The Harford County Department of Emergency Services is pleased to support the efforts of underground utility contractors in heightening public awareness to call **8 1 1** before digging for any type of construction or maintenance related project," said Richard Ayers, Deputy Director and Emergency Manager for the Department. "Many emergency responses to incidents resulting from broken or punctured underground lines could be avoided if people simply called **8 1 1** before breaking ground," Ayers added.

- 30 -

"Preserving Harford's past; promoting Harford's future"

